

CLAIMS

1. A process for preparing a water-absorbent resin made from an α,β -unsaturated carboxylic acid as an essential monomer characterized in that
5 said process comprises allowing a metal chelating agent to be present at any step in the process in an amount of 0.001 to 6 parts by weight, based on 100 parts by weight of the α,β -unsaturated carboxylic acid; and adding a reducing agent or an oxidizing agent thereto in an amount of 0.001 to 6 parts by weight, based on
10 100 parts by weight of the α,β -unsaturated carboxylic acid before initiation of drying and/or during drying of a gelled product containing a water-absorbent resin obtained by polymerization.
2. The process for preparing a water-absorbent resin according to claim 1,
15 wherein the reducing agent is a sulfite, a hydrogensulfite, a dithionite or a pyrosulfite.
3. The process for preparing a water-absorbent resin according to claim 1,
wherein the oxidizing agent is hydrogen peroxide.
- 20 4. The process for preparing a water-absorbent resin according to claim 1,
wherein the metal chelating agent is at least one member selected from the group consisting of diethylenetriaminepentaacetic acid, triethylenetetraminehexaacetic acid, trans-1,2-diaminocyclohexanetetraacetic acid, ethylenediaminetetraacetic acid, tripolyphosphoric acid, and salts thereof.

5. A water-absorbent resin obtainable by the process of any one of claims 1 to 4, wherein the water-absorbent resin has Yellow Index of 12 or less, after allowing to stand at 50°C and 90% relative humidity for 20 days.

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6. An absorbent comprising a water-absorbent resin obtained by the process of any one of claims 1 to 4, and a hydrophilic fiber.

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7. An absorbent article comprising the absorbent of claim 6, wherein the absorbent is kept between a liquid-permeable sheet and a liquid-impermeable sheet.

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8. A method for preventing discoloration of a water-absorbent resin made from an α,β -unsaturated carboxylic acid as an essential monomer, wherein said method comprises preparing the water-absorbent resin by a process comprising allowing a metal chelating agent to be present at any stage in the process in an amount of 0.001 to 6 parts by weight, based on 100 parts by weight of the α,β -unsaturated carboxylic acid; and adding a reducing agent or an oxidizing agent thereto in an amount of 0.001 to 6 parts by weight, based on 100 parts by weight of the α,β -unsaturated carboxylic acid before initiation of drying and/or during drying of a gelated product containing a water-absorbent resin obtained by polymerization.

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